

APPROVED: Meeting No. 17-93

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 11-93

April 15, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 15, 1993, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Re: Worksession with Board of  
Supervisors of Elections

Maury Ward, Chairperson, and Board members David Celeste, Audrey Impara, Ruth Loevinger and Margaretta Tutson discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

The Board had undergone some recent changes; the hiring of a new City Clerk and the downsizing of the elections clerk position. Mayor Duncan assured the Board that there would be adequate funds and resources to carry out the 1993 election.

Mayor Duncan noted that the term limits issue had been defeated by the Council on April 12, 1993. Staff was looking at the alternative parking arrangements for City employees at City Hall on election day.

Mr. Ward noted that Rockville only voter registration list was a topic of discussion

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at the Board's meeting this evening, and because of the amount of administrative time and effort involved in maintaining this list, the Board had considered letting this process be phased out.

Mayor Duncan asked that if people wanted to continue to register with the City, then to let them.

Mayor Duncan commented that the U.S. Conference of Mayors was promoting a "City Vote", whereupon cities would voluntarily list the Presidential candidates on their local ballots and let voters conduct a straw vote. Mayor Duncan passed this information onto Mr. Ward. Councilmember Coyle commented that the Mayor and Council should carefully look at this to make sure it would not impact on Rockville's non partisan elections.

Re: Worksession with Science and Technology  
Commission

Ellen Watson, Chairperson and Board members Kenneth Firestone, Katheen Joyce, John Keith, Leslie Lesoon-Wood, Steven Palance, Robert Slovic and Nathaniel Woodrick discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

#### Mission Statement

The Commission was anxious to get the Mayor and Council's direction on a mission statement. Mayor Duncan commented that the Board should focus on more than just educational activities; they also needed to serve as guidance to the Mayor and Council on storm water issues and should look at energy efficiency, i.e., EPA Green Lights Program, recycling, and get involved with other environmental issues. He suggested that the Board may want to form a subcommittee on this. Councilmember Coyle expressed concern that this seemed to be a heavy task for the Board and he suggested that these tasks be looked at from a point of what is a practical request for the group. Ms. Watson noted that a subcommittee had been put together. Mayor Duncan

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reminded the Board that the subcommittee must come through the Science and Technology Board.

Councilmember Krasnow noted there were other environmental concerns to be looked at, i.e., the incinerator issue. The Board was asked to let the Mayor and Council know what their recommendations were even if they differed from staff's--make sure their recommendations are representative of the Commission. Mayor Duncan reminded the Commission that they are an advisory board to the Mayor and Council.

#### Rockville Science Day

Councilmember Robbins asked what was being done about publicizing this year's Science Day. He remarked that last year's event conflicted with the Earth Day celebration in D.C. The Board will be evaluating this year's turnout to determine if the City should continue this event in future years. Councilmember Coyle asked if the Consortium received staff guidance regarding publicity of this event; the Consortium was told they had to have the School Superintendent's approval before displaying in the schools. Councilmember Marrinan suggested that the Board include the Consortium in the evaluation process after the event.

#### Incorporate "Environment" Into Commission's Name

Council consensus to rename the Board, the "Science Technology and Environment Commission" in order to have a more environmental perspective. Mayor and Council will adopt the mission statement along with a Resolution effecting the name change.

#### Other Commission Initiatives

Other Commission initiatives are: exploration of options for an electronic bulletin board and the costs associated with this. The Mayor and Council generally felt this was a good idea and asked that future applications to City services and City businesses be looked at as well.

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The Board is also looking into GIS applications in the City which could provide input to City departments in area planning, storm water management, land use planning and for use in emergency situations.

Re: Worksession with Economic  
Development Council

Harriet Margolis, Chairperson, and Board members James Farrell and George Kulstad discussed the following with the Mayor and Council.

Undertake Marketing Program to Retain and Attract Businesses

The most important ongoing activity would be to continue the program to attract more professional businesses and retain businesses in the City. The Board asked for Council's guidance on which types of business incentives would the City offer to new businesses. Mayor Duncan felt that the City might be receptive to the idea of offering infrastructure improvements.

Councilmember Coyle commented that the Hispanic and Asian community was growing and the City needed to make an effort to reach these groups so that this growing community could be fully integrated into Rockville. An idea was suggested that the Economic Development Council could plan to visit the City's Hispanic and Asia businesses.

Prepare Coordinated Public Relations Program

Mayor Duncan asked about the community guide the Board was planning to publish. The Board responded that this project became a victim of the recession but they were planning to revisit the project.

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Assist Businesses Through Research and Maintaining Information on Funding Assistance Resources Programs

The need for education for the small businesses was discussed; there is a misconception that the City has grant money for these businesses. The businesses need to understand that the City can direct them where to go for loans, but there is no budgeted money for grants. The Board will take this up at a future meeting and discuss ideas on targeting educational needs at the high school level.

Councilmember Krasnow expressed concern that Montgomery County has been sending out negative messages to businesses and this has been pushing businesses to other counties.

Councilmember Coyle commented that the Board needed to develop criteria to ensure that equity was being given in providing economic benefits to competing businesses.

Re: Worksession with Housing Authority

Overview of Operation

Last year was difficult for the Housing Authority; there were cuts in grants programs and no subsidies from HUD. They are on target with collections of rent revenues and have applied for additional Section 8 certificates and vouchers. The Family Self Sufficiency Program is going well. The Housing Authority lost financial support for one resident counselor position. A current major problem is the need for interior painting for all the units; they are trying to get funding for this and will build the project into a job training program. They are experiencing a loss of higher income residents. The drug situation has changed; it appears to be a using problem. The relationship with Lincoln Park is going well; they are having weekly meetings with Lincoln Park Civic Association.

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#### Future Developments

The plans are to continue affordable housing and expand their horizons; they would like to see how the Housing Authority can work with the Mayor and Council to make Rockville one of the premier housing sites in the County. There is a strong interest in providing home ownership and they will look at how other cities approach home ownership programs. The Housing Authority is looking at selling a portion of the public housing units which could be a successful venture and give the Lincoln Park community some encouragement. The Housing Authority will need funds for technical assistance to conduct a feasibility study on this proposal. At the Mayor and Council's request, the Housing Authority will develop a comprehensive housing plan on this issue.

#### Relationship with City

The Housing Authority asked to be immediately notified of certain decisions made by the Mayor and Council. As an example, they said they did not learn about the City's pulling support out of the Habitat House. The Housing Authority asked that they not be thought of as an outside agency. They would like the Council to revisit the Summer Youth Employment Program which could benefit from Housing Authority youngsters. Mayor Duncan reminded the Board that the City's Recreation and Parks Department hired youths to help out at playgrounds, park clean ups, camps, etc.

Councilmember Krasnow commented that the Housing Authority's concern appeared to be a separate issue; maybe the City needed to establish some type of jobs program for disbanded youth. The Mayor and Council will discuss this during the budget worksessions.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to convene again in Public Hearing on April 19, 1993, or at the call of the Mayor.